Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1281

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA TURKEY

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO SRI LANKA

AMEMBASSY DACCA BANGLADESH

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL AFGANISTAN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU NAPAL

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA CYPRUS

AMEMBASSY SANAA YEMEN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652 : N/A TAGS : EAID, XF

SUBJECT : USG ROLE IN HANDLING AUB SCHOLARSHIPS

REF : BEIRUT 5311 STATE A-94

1. IN RESPONSE REFERENCES, I HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY OPERATION AID/GULF STATE AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN BAHRAIN. FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STANDPOINT THIS EMBASSY IS MOST CONTENT WITH PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, SIGNALLY AWARE OF KEY ROLE AID OFFICE BEIRUT PLAYS IN MAKING PROGRAM WORK SMOOTHLY, AND UNEASY ABOUT PROSPECTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR COMPARABLE EFFECTIVENESS SHOULD AUB TAKE OVER

ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, WE BENEFICIARIES IN THE OUTLYING PROVINCES MUST DEFER TO JUDGMENT EMBASSY BEIRUT AND AID ON MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO OPERATE PROGRAM INSOFAR AS ADMINISTRATIVE AND COST FACTORS ARE SIGNIFICANT.

2. FROM POLICY STANDPOINT, ON OTHER HAND, I FEEL MOST STRONGLY IT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN BAHRAIN, AND GULF GENERALLY, TO PERMIT AUB TO STEP IN AS USG AGENT WITH DIRECT CONTACT WITH GOB. USG HAS DETERMINED AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO SEEK EVERY FEASIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO GULF STATES. OBJECTIVE IS TO SERVE NATIONAL INTEREST IN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF GULF STATES WHILE STRENGTHENING US INFLUENCE HERE. AID HAS PARTICIPATED MOST HELPFULLY AT ALL STAGES IN FORMULATING THIS POLICY. WE ARE ALL PAINFULLY AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES WE FIND IN IMPLEMENTING IT, BOTH BECAUSE OF OUR OWN LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS AND BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN IDENTIFYING NUMEROUS FIRM OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A USG CONTRIBUTION IN GULF STATES. BUT IN BAHRAIN A LITTLE BIT CAN GO A LONG WAY. AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HAS BEEN A MANIFESTATION OF USG INTENT TO ASSIST BAHRAIN'S DEVELOPMENT. WITH FEW SIMILAR MANIFESTATIONS WORKING (PEACE CORPS AND THE ODD MIGRANT CU SPONSORED EXPERT) DIRECT USG ROLE IN AUB SCHOLARSHIPS IS A LARGE PART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ACTIVITY IN BAHRAIN. PROGRAM IS VISIBLE AND APPRECIATED HERE, IN NO SMALL PART BECAUSE AID BEIRUT OFFICE HANDLES IT SO WELL. I WOULD BE EXTREMELY LOATHE TO SEE AUB TAKE THIS PROGRAM OVER DIRECTLY, INEVITABLE CAUSING BAHRAINIS TO FORGET THAT USG IS PAYING FOR PROGRAM. IN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FIELD WE COULD STAND MORE, NOT LESS, VISIBILITY HERE. **TWINAM**

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